

Bob's Corner

CARLSBAD, Calif. – This was going to be a difficult column (for me) because of all that I wanted to cram in. But now it's Monday of this week, and I'm not wanting to burden the staff with having to reset a glob of copy, so I'm going to keep it short.

Arrived at Lindbergh Field/San Diego International Airport on Thursday last. Daughter Vicki and granddaughter Natalie picked me up, and we went to see my uncle at Cabrillo National Monument on Point Loma overlooking the Silver Strand with Coronado (the city, not the explorer), plus North Island Naval Air Station, and the lovely skyline of Downtown San Diego. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo is credited with being the first European to set foot in these parts. No one believes that he is my uncle.

Next day we went to the San Diego Zoo, where we saw a diving polar bear, galloping gorillas, and several hundred schoolchildren on tour. Had a great time with Vic and Nat, plus my cousin, Micheline. Also had a fine lunch in Albert's Restaurant, named for a famous gorilla at the zoo.

I've been walking on Tamarack Beach here; took my mom for brunch in honor of her on Mothers Day; and took Amtrak from Oceanside to the Santa Fe Depot in San Diego. Went to Old Town San Diego, where no one would believe that Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo is my uncle. Great place to visit.

El Jefe is on a nostalgia trip. Told you I'd keep it short this week. But wait until next issue.

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Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary expressed in letters to the editor are strictly those of the letter-writers.)

Typed, double-spaced letters are acceptable for consideration. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication. Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.)

'No Heart'
 From Shirley Merrill O'Brien

Shortly before noon on May, 1, I was driving along a U.S. Forest Service road southeast of O'Brien to pick up my mail. I found two little kittens huddled in a sunny spot alongside the road. I drove past them to a wide spot to turn around and go back to try and rescue them. This is usually a futile effort, as most domestic animals are frightened and run away into the brush by the time they are noticed.

I stopped the car approximately 25 feet from them, stepped out and called "kitty, kitty." To my surprise, they immediately ran to me and let me pick them up. I was a little wary as I had two small dogs in my car, but the kittens and dogs were fine with each other.

I can't believe that someone would abandon kittens to the weather, predators, or starvation in a forest. These individuals are scum-sucking bottom dwellers without any character at all.

This is not the first time this has happened. What few neighbors we have out this way have often expressed their distress at seeing abandoned animals in this area. The place I found the kittens is at least one mile away from the nearest house. The good news is, with one phone call, we found a rescue shelter happy to take the kittens.

My husband and I have a message for these cowardly lowlifes - if we ever catch you, we will see that you are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. We are tired of seeing small, helpless animals abandoned without any hope of survival.

They are probably the same ones that dump trash along that very same road. Kittens are not trash, but these jerks are.

'Problem and Solution'

Jack Murphy
 Grants Pass

This is an open letter to your readers to consider taking corrective action on: The problem! None of our Social Security retirement benefits are actually guaranteed by law.

The United States Supreme Court ruled in Fleming v. Nester (1960) that Americans have no legal right to their Social Security benefits. Congress can reduce your benefits (they have) or even increase your taxes you pay on your benefits (they have) and reduce cost of living adjustments (COLAs) at any time at its complete discretion.

This is a terrible threat hanging over every retiree and near-retiree. As an example of how Americans' retirement income can be suddenly reduced, in 1993 former President Clinton, with the approval of Congress, greatly

increased the seniors-only tax on Social Security benefits, cutting the income of millions who had paid Social Security taxes their whole lives. Not to mention the fact that each year more middle-class seniors are slapped with this extra tax. As a good first step, Congress should pass legislation that gives seniors a written guarantee of their Social Security benefits.

The ultimate solution is for every working American and retirees to actually own as personal property the money they, and their employers, pay into their Social Security. We have a serious and active advocate in the United Seniors Association who is leading the effort to ensure Congress clearly guarantees our Social Security benefits, by passing the Social Security Benefits Guarantee Act H.R. 812.

Your action is needed now. Here are the things you need to do to get the ball rolling to a successful completion. 1. Call your Representative, urge him/her to support this legislation. 2. Call your Senators; urge them to introduce the same bill in the Senate. 3. Visit United Seniors Association's Web site, www.unitedseniors.org and send an e-mail or fax to your Congressman/woman and Senators. 4. Get five friends to do the same and phone five more people. 5. Get the word out to others by writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper, call into radio talk shows and speak at local community group meetings. 6. Phone United Seniors Association at (800) 887-2872 for more information.

'Yes on charter'
 From Lynn Boucher

Cave Junction

In last week's 'Noose,' I read the two articles relating to the Josephine County petition for a new county charter. Although the article by Bob Rodriguez was accurate and informative, I found the article from the opinion of the Board of Commissioners complete "bunk."

If the valley is what Jim

Brock said is their "special place," why are they not supporting us here. They have back paddled on very important issues here. Where is the support to the I.V. Pool? Where is the support for law enforcement? Where is their support for our senior meal programs?

(Continued on page 3)

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WOMEN IN BLACK AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

WHO WE ARE...

We are an international movement of women of conscience, from all nationalities and faiths. We stand for justice, civil society, and peaceful co-existence. We stand against policies that kill, destroy cities, force migration and annihilate human relations. We oppose all forms of local and global violence: war, terrorism, militarism, interethnic conflict, the arms industry, nuclear weapons, racism, and violence against women and children. What unites us is a commitment to justice and a world free of violence; a shared vision of peace, compassion, and justice.

WHAT WE DO...

We hold peace vigils and protest violence. Each vigil is autonomous, setting its own policy and guidelines, though in all vigils we wear black, symbolizing the tragedy of victims of violence. We are silent because words cannot express the tragedy that hatred and war bring.

RECOGNITIONS...

In 2001, Women in Black (WIB) were nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. We were honored with the Millennium Peace Prize for Women (UNIFEM). WIB in Israel won the Aachen Peace Prize (1991), the peace award of the city of San Giovanni d'Asso in Italy (1994), and the Jewish Peace Fellowship's "Peacemaker Award" (2001).

OUR ORIGINS...

WIB began in Jerusalem in 1988, when Israeli and Palestinian women stood courageously together at a busy intersection to protest the occupation of Palestine. They drew inspiration for a public vigil from mothers in Argentina who stood vigil carrying pictures of their missing loved ones. The Black Sash movement in South Africa, whose members wore black to protest apartheid, inspired them to wear black.

WORLDWIDE...

Solidarity vigils sprang up in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. By 1990, they had formed in many countries, for many reasons. In Italy, WIB is a large, important movement standing for justice for immigrants and for international peace. In Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia, WIB set an inspiring example of interethnic cooperation, taking to the streets in wartime, holding seminars, and publishing books. In Mexico, WIB has joined indigenous peoples in calling for their rights. In Germany, they have protested neo-Nazism, racism against immigrant workers, and nuclear weapons.

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